

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI PRIORITY

USDEL SALT TWO PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW TOKYO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

GENEVA FOR KRAUS ALSO

VIENNA FOR MBFR DELEGATION

HELSINKI FOR MPT

INFO FOR PAOS

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. TUESDAY WEDNESDAY PAPERS FRONTPAGED THIEU
VISIT. TUESDAY INSIDE PAPERS HAD BRANDT REAFFIRMS LOYALTY

TO US AND NATO; BALTSUN HAD MOSCOW ITEM ON BREZHNEV TRIP TO AMERICA; NYTIMES HAD GENEVA STORY, US CALLS CHEMWAR CHARGES AGAINST PORTUGAL UNPROVED. COMMENT SCATTERED.

1 A. WEDNESDAY INSIDE PAPERS HAD SOVIET LAUNCHES SPACE STATION; WASHPOST HAD DEBRE LEAVES CABINET, ALSO BRIEF ON US TRADE DELEGATION MEETS WITH EAST GERMAN OFFICIALS; NYTIMES HAD FULBRIGHT ASKS 2- YEAR PHASE- OUT OF MILITARY AID.

1 B. THURSDAY PAPERS FEATURE CHIEFLY DOMESTIC ITEMS; BALTSUN FRONTPAGES BRANDT AND NIXON TO MEET IN MAY. INSIDE NYTIMES HAS MOSCOW PUBLICIZES BREZHNEV BONN VISIT; ALSO US WOULD DISCUSS AMITY WITH ALBANIA. WASHPOST HEADS LONG

STORY BY MORGAN FROM SOFIA, EAST WEST COOPERATE TO BLOCK HEROIN HIGHWAY TO US; ALSO HAS US COMPANY AND ROMANIA IN JOINT VENTURE.

2. GENEVA STORIES. TUESDAY NYTIMES SPECIAL REPORTED US DESCRIBED AS LARGELY UNSUBSTANTIATED CHARGES BY A GROUP OF UNITED NATIONS EXPERTS THAT PORTUGAL WAS WAGING CHEMICAL WARFARE AGAINST REBELS IN HER AFRICAN TERRITORIES, QUOTING FERGUSON TELLING RIGHTS COMMISSION: THERE IS NO CONVINCING EVIDENCE WHATSOEVER THAT POISONOUS AND CHEMICAL SUBSTANCES ARE BEING USED IN THE LIBERATED AREAS OF THE PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES. SPECIAL ADDED THE EXPERTS REPORTED THAT IN MOZAMBIQUE AND ANGOLA PORTUGUESE WERE USING AIRCRAFT TO DROP NAPALM, DEFOLIANTS, AND HERBICIDES.

2 A. WEDNESDAY LOS ANGELES TIMES HAD UPI REPORTING US AND SOVIET UNION HELD 18 TH MEETING IN NEW ROUND OF SALT, WHICH LASTED ONE HOUR AND FIFTY MINUTES. UPI ADDED THAT AS USUAL NO DETAILS WERE DISCLOSED.

3. BREZHNEV. TUESDAY BALTSUN HAD MOSCOW SPECIAL REPORTING SIGNS THAT KREMLIN HAS BEGUN LONG- RANGE PREPARATIONS FOR BREZHNEV' S TRIP TO US ALTHOUGH DATE HASN' T BEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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ANNOUNCED, SPECIAL ADDING THAT BREZHNEV' S IMPORTANCE WITHIN COLLECTIVE LEADERSHIP IS BEING BUILT UP AS IT WAS LAST YEAR. ACCORDING SPECIAL, SOVIET SOURCES HAVE SUGGESTED THAT WASHINGTON REPORTS OF A JUNE VISIT ARE PROBABLY TOO EARLY IN VIEW OF SCHEDULED BONN VISIT IN MID-MAY, ADDING THAT A FALL TRIP WOULD GIVE MORE ADVANCE TIME TO WORK OUT A SERIES OF BILATERAL AGREEMENTS. SPECIAL SPECULATES MAIN TRIP TOPIC MIGHT BE MASSIVE DEAL RE SIBERIAN GAS AND OIL FIELDS.

4. EAST- WEST. THURSDAY BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW REPORTS

PRESIDENT KEARNS OF EXIM SAID BANK WILL ASK CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL BEFORE CONSIDERING SOVIET REQUESTS FOR LARGE-SCALE LOANS TO BUY AMERICAN EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY, ADDING BANK WOULD PROBABLY-- BUT NOT NECESSARILY-- REQUIRE FAR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET PROJECTS AND PLANS. PARKS ADDS CONGRESSIONAL AND DATA REQUIREMENTS ARE LIKELY TO PROVE MAJOR OBSTACLES TO RAPID EXPANSION OF TRADE SOUGHT BY MOSCOW.

4 A. WASHPOST DODER LOCAL REPORTS CONTROL DATA CORP AND ROMANIAN GOVERNMENT HAVE SIGNED AGREEMENT TO ESTABLISH A JOINT MANUFACTURING COMPANY TO PRODUCE PERIPHERAL COMPUTER EQUIPMENT IN ANOTHER STEP IN THE IMPROVING RELATIONS BETWEEN US AND EASTERN EUROPE. LATER DODER REPORTS RUSH IN SPEECH AT NAVAL ACADEMY SAID ADMINISTRATION IS SEEKING TO ENCOURAGE US BUSINESSMEN TO SELL INVEST AND BUY IN EASTERN EUROPE IN CONFIDENCE THIS IS FULLY CONSONANT WITH US NATIONAL INTEREST. DODER REPORTS RUSH SAID ADMINISTRATION INTENDS TO REMOVE BARRIERS TO EASTERN EUROPE BY LOWERING TARIFFS, EXTENDING EXIM CREDITS, AND MAKING SIGNIFICANT REDUCTIONS IN NUMBER OF US PRODUCTS CURRENTLY ON LIST OF STRATEGIC GOODS WHOSE EXPORT TO EASTERN EUROPE IS RESTRICTED.

4 B. NYTIMES GWERTZMAN STRESSES US CALLED FOR END TO LONG-STANDING CHILL IN RELATIONS WITH ALBANIA AS PART OF A MORE VIGOROUS EFFORT TO IMPROVE TIES WITH ALL THE COMMUNIST GOVERNMENTS OF EASTERN EUROPE. GWERTZMAN SAYS OFFER TO BEGIN DIALOGUE WITH ALBANIA WAS MADE IN RUSH SPEECH, DEPUTY SECRETARY SAYING IT SEEMS ANACHRONISTIC THAT ALBANIA SHOULD CONTINUE TO WISH TO FUNCTION IN SUCH ISOLATION. UNCLASSIFIED

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TION AND IF IT WISHES TO RESUME RELATIONS IT WILL FIND US PREPARED TO RESPOND. GWERTZMAN SAYS RUSH SPEECH WAS FIRST IN MANY YEARS BY A HIGH ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO EASTERN EUROPE AND SEEMED ALSO AIMED AT INFORMING AMERICAN PUBLIC ABOUT THE MORE CORDIAL RELATIONS DEVELOPING BETWEEN US AND EASTERN EUROPE, GWERTZMAN NOTING ALSO SPECIAL APPEAL TO BUSINESSMEN.

5. BRANDT. BALTSUN OISHI BONN REPORTS BRANDT PLANS TO VISIT NIXON NEXT MONTH, NEWS COMING AS CONTROVERSY CONTINUES TO SWIRL OVER ALLEGED RISE IN ANTI- AMERICANISM IN GERMANY, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRESS RELEASE STATED BRANDT WILL ASSURE NIXON GERMAN- AMERICAN FRIENDSHIP REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER AMONG VAST MAJORITY OF WEST GERMANS. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN VON WECHMAR ACKNOWLEDGED, SAYS OISHI, THAT ALLEGED ANTI- AMERICANISM WILL BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON BUT SAID IT WAS NOT IMMEDIATE REASON FOR THIS MEETING, CITING CURRENCY PROBLEMS, ALSO CSCE AND MBFR.

5 A. NYTIMES BINDER BONN REPORTS BRANDT ACCEPTANCE OF MAY 1 AND 2 DATE IN WASHINGTON, ADDING THAT CHANCELLOR'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THE WASHINGTON INVITATION REPORTEDLY WANED WHEN HE LEARNED LAST WEEK THAT OTHER WEST EUROPEAN LEADERS ARE BEING INVITED TO WHITE HOUSE THIS SPRING, BINDER SAYING BRANDT REPORTEDLY ASKED WHY NIXON DOESN'T GO TO EUROPE, WHY SHOULD WE ALL LINE UP TO KISS THE DOORMAT? BINDER LISTS SEVERAL ECONOMIC TOPICS FOR BRANDT-NIXON DISCUSSION, ALSO UPCOMING CSCE.

5 B. WASHPOST KILPATRICK SAN CLEMENTE REPORTS WHITE HOUSE ANNOUNCEMENT OF BRANDT ACCEPTANCE, ALSO VISIT OF PM ANDREOTTI IN MID- APRIL AS PART OF NIXON'S YEAR OF EUROPE AND IN ADVANCE OF PRESIDENT'S PROJECTED VISIT TO EUROPE LATER IN YEAR, NOT BEFORE FALL.

6. DEBRE. WEDNESDAY WASHPOST RANDAL PARIS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH DEBRE'S DEPARTURE AS ARMED FORCES MINISTER, REFERRING TO DEBRE'S FAILURE TO GRASP CHANGING PUBLIC MOOD, INCLUDING HIS REFUSAL TO STOP ABOVE-GROUND NUCLEAR TESTING OVER PACIFIC DESPITE INTERNATIONAL CRITICISM. RANDAL SPECULATED BRITAIN MAY NOW FIND IT EASIER TO DISCUSS POSSIBILITY OF ANGLO-FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCE, ADDING THAT ALTHOUGH POMPIDOU SEEMS UNLIKELY TO GO BACK ON DE UNCLASSIFIED

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GAULLE'S WITHDRAWAL OF FRENCH FORCES FROM NATO FRANCE MAY PROVE TO BE MORE WILLING TO DISCUSS JOINT NUCLEAR STRATEGY WITH US AND BRITAIN.

7. COMMENT. NYNEWS APRIL 1 EDITORIAL CITED MOORER'S TESTIMONY ON CONTINUING RUSSIAN ARMS BUILDUP, SAYING THAT SPECTER OF A RED ARMY ACHIEVING A QUALITATIVE AS WELL AS QUANTITATIVE LEAD IN NUCLEAR ARMS IS SOMETHING THAT SHOULD SEND SHUDDERS DOWN AMERICAN SPINES; EDITORIAL ALSO QUOTES EXTENSIVELY FROM PRESIDENT'S TV ADDRESS AGAINST UNILATERAL DISARMAMENT BY US; AND CALLS FOR A MANNED BOMBER TO REPLACE B-52 AND IMPROVED SUBMARINE MISSILE-LAUNCHING SYSTEM.

7 A. EARLIER ATLANTA JOURNAL- CONSTITUTION ALSO CITED ARMS IMPROVEMENTS BY RUSSIA AND CHINA AND CONCLUDED IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE AS MASTERS OF OUR DESTINY WE MUST HAVE SUFFICIENT STRENGTH TO INSURE THAT POSITION.

7 B. MONDAY BALTSUN HAD ONE OF SERIES OF COLUMNS WRITTEN BY RUSSELL KIRK FOLLOWING LONG INTERVIEW WITH NIXON. COLUMN IS HEADED, US IS STUDYING TACTICS OF AVOIDING BIG WARS, KIRK NOTING INADEQUACY OF UNITED NATIONS TO PREVENT WARS AND SAYING REAL KEEPERS OF PEACE MUST BE THE GREAT POWERS, ADDING THAT SALT AGREEMENTS CONSTITUTE NIXON'S

CHIEF ACHIEVEMENT SO FAR IN THIS RETURN TO REALISTIC METHODS OF PEACEKEEPING, AS RUSSIA AND US REALIZE NEITHER HAS ANYTHING TO GAIN FROM ADDITIONAL NUCLEAR ARMAMENT, ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT WILL TAKE MEASURES TO SECURE ADEQUATE NATIONAL DEFENSE, PARTICULARLY NAVY.

7 C. BUT MINNEAPOLIS STAR LAST WEEK SAW RICHARDSON PURSUING LAIRD LINE, ADDING THAT WHITE HOUSE WOULD DO WELL TO LISTEN TO THE 14 REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN WHO CALLED FOR TECHNOLOGICAL RESTRAINT BY ADMINISTRATION DURING SALT TWO, NOT FLEXING OF NEW MUSCLES.

8. EUROPE COMMENT. SUNDAY WASHSTAR CROSBY NOYES COMMENTED ON AMSTERDAM MEETING, SEEING A GROWING CONCERN IN EUROPE ABOUT US RELIABILITY AS ALLY AND SKEPTICISM ABOUT AMERICAN NUCLEAR UMBRELLA, ALSO CONCERN ABOUT DETENTE AND CURRENT NEGOTIATIONS AND EXPECTATION SOVIET UNION WILL BRING GREAT PRESSURE AT SALT TO PREVENT CREATION OF A
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CREDIBLE EUROPEAN DETERRENT. IF US IS WILLING TO PAY THIS PRICE FOR DETENTE, SAID NOYES, EUROPE WOULD BE LEFT DEFENSELESS AND HIGHLY VULNERABLE TO RUSSIAN POLITICAL PRESSURE.

8 A. SATURDAY WASHPOST NOSSITER AMSTERDAM SAID CONFEREES WERE TROUBLED BECAUSE INSTITUTIONS THEY BUILT ARE BEING OVERTAKEN BY EVENTS, IN OTHER WORDS THEY WERE WORRYING ABOUT THE WRONG THINGS. NOSSITER LISTS CURRENCY TRADE AND OTHER ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AS REAL AND ADDS: AVOIDING A PROCESS THAT ENABLES THE MOST CHANGE- RESISTANT ALLY TO FIX THE PACE OF NEGOTIATIONS OVER EUROPEAN SECURITY, MUTUAL TROOP CUTS AND LIMITING NUCLEAR WEAPONS. ROGERS

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